

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants' representative gratefully acknowledges the informal interview on August 25, 2005 with Examiner Chism concerning the foregoing amendments. This response reflects the substance of that interview. In light of the amendments and the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

II. Summary of the Claims and Amendments Thereto

Claims 1-55 are pending, while claims 41-45, 47, and 48 are withdrawn.

The subject matter of claims 8 and 9 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to further provide for polypeptides that bear 90% sequence identity to the recited sequences. Enabling support and description for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, such as, for example, at page 15, lines 19-26 and pages 23-24.

Claims 8 and 9 are amended to reflect the changes to claim 1. Additionally, claims 8 and 9, together with claims 39 and 40, are amended to recite only sequence numbers simply to facilitate easier reading of the claims. Finally, a minor clarifying amendment was effected for claim 49.

The amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter. In fact, the claims as amended are intended to comport with the scope of subject matter implicitly deemed allowable by the PTO as discussed below. Thus, while Applicants acknowledge that the amendments are being presented after a final Office Action, they nonetheless kindly request the PTO to enter the amendments.

III. The Office Action

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the PTO's withdrawal of most claim rejections and objections. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the claims as amended should moot the remaining issues.

A. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The PTO maintained the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph allegedly as lacking enablement for plasmin inhibitors other than SEQ ID NOs. 2, 4, 6, 8, 20, 23, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 67. To the extent that this rejection may apply to the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

While not acquiescing to the PTO's reasoning or conclusion, and in the sole interest of progressing this application toward allowance, Applicants have amended the claims to comport with scope of subject matter the PTO deemed enabled. In this regard, the claims provide for sequences that bear 90% sequence identity to the recited sequences. The specification fully describes the modifications and resultant sequences satisfying this qualification at page 15, lines 19-26 and at pages 23-24. Consequently, the entire scope of the claimed invention is enabled, and Applicants therefore respectfully urge the PTO to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B. Claim Objections

The PTO objected to claims 8-40 and 49-55 for depending from rejected claims. The foregoing amendments and commentary should resolve the claim rejection, and thereby render this objection moot.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. Examiner Chism is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if he feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.